

The purpose of an Integrated Impact Assessment is to evidence that Aberdeen City Council is meeting its legislative duties by assessing the potential impacts of its policies and decisions on different groups of people and the environment. The legislation considered within this assessment is:

- Section 2 [Equality Act 2010 protected characteristics](#)
- Section 3 [Socio-Economic](#)
- Section 4 [Consumer Duty](#)
- Section 5 [Human Rights](#)
- Section 6 [Children and Young People’s Rights](#)
- Section 7 [Environmental impacts](#)

The term ‘policy’ is used throughout this document and applies to policies, proposals, strategies, provision, criteria, functions, practice, budget savings and activities that includes delivery of our services.

1. About the Policy

1.1 Title

Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Budget 2025/26

1.2 What does this policy seek to achieve?

To set the housing revenue account budget for 2025/26, as part of this increases are proposed to charges including rents for properties that sit within the HRA and a category of miscellaneous charges which are outlined below. The overall objective of the proposals within the budget is to achieve a financially stable HRA which moves towards restoring working balances to 10%, whilst considering affordability for Aberdeen City Council tenants, and citizens who use other services, such as parking and garages.

Appendix 1 of the report outlines the rent setting and charges that would be increased if approved, this IIA will focus primarily on the impact of the proposed rental increase, if approved the increases would take effect from 07 April 2025.

Table 1 below is the proposed rent increases based on 12% rental increase.

Table 1

2024/25 rent levels	0 Bedrooms	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
	£	£	£	£	£
Multi/flat/maisonette	70.98	84.63	91.46	98.29	105.11
Four in a block	77.81	91.46	98.28	105.12	111.94
Cottage/house	84.65	98.29	105.12	111.96	118.78
Proposed 2025/26 rent levels	0 Bedrooms	1 Bedroom	2 Bedrooms	3 Bedrooms	4 Bedrooms
12% increase					
	£	£	£	£	£
Multi/flat/maisonette	79.50	94.78	102.43	110.09	117.72
Four in a block	87.15	102.43	110.08	117.73	125.37
Cottage/house	94.81	110.09	117.73	125.39	133.03

Table 2 below provides information on other charges that would be increased if approved.

Table 2

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL				
HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT				
Miscellaneous Rents				
2025/2026				
	Current	Proposed	Increase	Percentage
	Rental	Rental	Per Week	Increase
	£	£	£	%
Miscellaneous Increases - HRA				
Garages	13.75	15.40	1.65	12.00%
Denburn and West North Street Spaces	6.30	7.06	0.76	12.00%
Denburn and West North Street Spaces	22.75	25.50	2.75	12.09%
Garages Sites	5.35	6.00	0.65	12.15%
Car Ports	5.85	6.55	0.70	12.00%
Car Parking Spaces - Local	4.95	5.55	0.60	12.12%
Car Parking Spaces - Non Local	22.75	25.50	2.75	12.09%
Window Cleaning	1.00	1.12	0.12	12.00%
Meals at Denmore & Kingswood	46.50	52.00	5.50	11.83%
Guest Rooms (per night)	12&18	14 & 20	2.00	16% & 11%
House Garden Scheme (annual)	90.00	101.00	11.00	12.22%
General Fund charges - Support Services				
Service Charge for Supported Flats	53	66	13	24.53%
Provision of temporary accommodation as per legislative duty	95	97	2	2.11%
Service Charge for Hostel - West North Street	810	869	59	7.28%
Hotels/B&B (new charge)	0	570	570	

Following a detailed review carried out by the Financial Inclusion Team, it has been established that tenants currently receiving full or partial assistance through Housing Benefit (HB) or Universal Credit (UC) will not be directly affected by the proposed rent increase. This is because their benefit entitlements would be adjusted to reflect changes in housing costs, ensuring they remain financially supported as rents rise. Aberdeen City Council has a total stock of 23,489 council housing properties. Of the 20,425 current tenancies, the rental increase will have a greater impact on approximately 6,693 tenants who are not currently claiming housing costs through housing benefit or universal credit and pay full rent.

It is worth noting however that universal credit and housing benefit does not cover the costs of some of miscellaneous increases as these are optional, such as parking spaces, garages, window cleaning, garden maintenance and guest room charges. Meal provision at very sheltered housing complexes at Denmore and Kingwood is not an optional charge and is an ineligible service and therefore housing benefit will not cover these costs. The general fund charges (support services) are eligible for housing benefit.

Considering the national context, for the last four years, the rent set for Aberdeen City Council tenants has increased by an average of 2.18% a year, which is the lowest increase of all the local authority landlords in Scotland.

1.3 Is this a strategic programme/proposal/decision?

Yes

1.4 Is this a new or existing policy?

Existing

1.5 Is this report going to a committee?

Yes

1.6 Committee name and date:

Council: 11 December 2024

1.7 Report no and / or Budget proposal number and / or Business Case reference number:

CORS/24/356

1.8 Function and cluster:

Corporate Services, Finance

Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a legal requirement as a public sector organisation to assess the impact of its work on equality groups and assess against human rights, children’s rights and our socio-economic duty. This is our Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED). The PSED has three key parts:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or any other prohibited conduct.
- Advance equality of opportunity.
- Foster good relations by tackling prejudice, promoting understanding.

This following five sections in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrate that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

2: Equality Act 2010 - Protected Characteristics

Aberdeen City Council wants to ensure everyone is treated fairly. This section identifies what impact the policy may have on people with [protected characteristics](#).

2.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below groups?

Protected Characteristic	Negative			Neutral	Positive
	High	Medium	Low		
Age		√			
Disability		√			
Gender Reassignment				√	
Marriage and Civil Partnership			√		
Pregnancy and Maternity		√			
Race			√		
Religion or Belief				√	
Sex			√		
Sexual Orientation				√	

2.2 In what way will the policy impact people with these protected characteristics?

It recognised that an increase in rent and other miscellaneous charges will have a potential adverse impact on people with protected characteristics.

Age: The age profile of current Aberdeen city council tenants not in receipt of any HB or UC payments is as follows, 32% of tenants are aged between 16-24, 66% of tenants are aged between 25-65 and 4% of tenants are pension age and above. 4,953 households have children under 16 years old and 15% of tenancies with 1 or more children in the household are not receiving any help towards their rent costs. It is therefore recognised that the impact of rises will be felt more acutely by people within the 16-65 age range, being the age categories that are not in receipt of benefits to meet rising rental charges. We do not have access to data to accurately assess the impact of the other proposed miscellaneous charges against different age groups, however, recognise that charges relating to meal provision, garden maintenance and window cleaning are more likely to impact those who are 65+.

Disability: The housing database does not hold accurate data on disabilities/health as people may not wish to disclose this information or it may have not been collected. Data was extracted from the Financial Inclusion Team case management system covering the last 2 years of council tenants who have been supported by the service in dealing with rent arrears. This evidenced that 68% of clients had a recorded health issue, the data does not clearly identify this health issue as a disability. We do not have access to data to accurately assess the impact of the other proposed miscellaneous charges for those with a disability, however, recognise that charges relating to meal provision, garden maintenance and window cleaning are more likely to impact those who have an existing disability.

Pregnancy and Maternity: Pregnancy brings a period of sudden increased financial pressure, the household income can reduce, whilst costs increase. This can increase the risk of entering poverty, especially for families who are living just above the poverty line prior to the birth of their child.

Race: There is a higher proportion of current Aberdeen City Council tenants, not in receipt of any HB or UC payments, who are of a white ethnic origin (82.9%), and the remaining 17.1% is split between 0.7% of mixed or multiple ethnic groups, 0.4% of Asian ethnic groups, 0.5% of African ethnic groups, 0.4% of Caribbean or Black ethnic groups, 0.1% of Arab ethnic groups, 0.3% of other ethnic groups and 14.7% where no data is recorded. (Note: while migration has increased in Aberdeen, not all groups are entitled to benefits and other public funds.)

Sex: There are 16,966 single tenancies with 55% of these held by female versus 45% held by males. 39% of females in single tenancies are not receiving any help towards their rent costs and 36% of males in single tenancies are not receiving any help towards their rent costs which suggested while both groups may have an impact, 3% more females would be impacted. 25% of joint tenancies are not receiving any help towards their rent costs.

Gender Reassignment, Religion or Belief and Sexual Orientation:

Information on other characteristics is not available / disclosed at the time of collection and has been marked as neutral or low. While there is no robust data relating to the characteristics, we do acknowledge that there may be other barriers that these groups might face when accessing services.

2.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

As at 29 November 2024, data held for all tenants in the housing database was as follows:

- There are 20,425 current mainstream tenancies
- Total rent arrears of £10,665,648.09
- 4,953 households with child(ren) under 16 years old
- There are 16,966 single tenancies with 55% of these held by female versus 45% held by males.
- 7% of tenants are aged between 16-24
- 70% tenants are aged between 25-65
- 23% tenants are state pension age and above
- 55% of female's tenants are in arrears of more than £10 compared to 45% of males.
- 13,732 households (67%) are claiming help towards their rent through either Housing Benefit/Universal Credit.
- 6,693 households (33%) currently not receiving any help through state benefits toward rent costs.
- There is a higher proportion of tenants who are of a white ethnic origin (95.3%), and the remaining 4.7% is split between 0.4% of mixed ethnic groups, 0.3% of Asian ethnic groups, 0.5% of Black ethnic groups, 0.5% of other ethnic groups, and 3.0% where no data is recorded
- The total rent arrears of people who are not in receipt of benefits is £4,009,038.77 (38%)

The above data provides an overall picture of our tenancy and figures were used to compare and understand the impact on those who are not in receipt of benefits and would be impacted.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

The report was consulted on internally, across the following service areas, financial inclusion, capital, corporate landlord and housing.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy?

A consultation process for rent setting for 2025/26 was approved at Council in October 2024. Whilst planning for the consultation our active tenant group supported the formation of questions to be asked and the communication that was sent to tenants. All current tenants were provided with the opportunity to participate in the consultation, of the 538 responses received, 365 were not claiming housing benefit or universal credit. It is important to note that the level of responses received is low compared with the total number of tenancies, a

response rate of approximately 2.6%. When asked the question regarding a 10% rent increase from April 2025, 281 respondents were strongly against, 85 against, 43 either supported or strongly supported the proposal with 60 responding as neutral. Tenants highlighted the fact that they felt an increase would have either a high (274) or medium impact (147) on their household, with 188 respondents citing current difficulties in paying their rent due to financial pressures.

This consultation did not gather views on changes to other miscellaneous charges noted above in table 2, this is in line with legal duty to consult tenants about rent setting only.

2.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

Alongside the recommendation to increase rent and certain miscellaneous charges, the report recommends that the Rent Assistance Fund is continued into 2025/26 which would continue to provide targeted support tenants to tenant's financial difficulties which are impacting on their ability to pay rent.

The proposed rent increase is anticipated to disproportionately impact tenants who are not claiming any form of welfare benefits, as these households often have limited access to financial support mechanisms to offset rising costs. Unlike tenants already in receipt of benefits, whose entitlement calculations will adjust to reflect changes in housing costs, those not claiming benefits would have to meet increased costs through their household income. This could result in heightened financial strain, potentially leading to rent arrears or an increased risk of homelessness.

To mitigate these negative impacts, the Rent Assistance Fund (RAF) serves as a crucial policy lever. By looking to target financial support to those households not receiving benefit support, the RAF could help prevent financial crisis before escalation.

While the forthcoming 6.7% increase in the UK National Living Wage in April 2025 from £11.44 to £12.21 per hour may provide some relief for low-paid workers, it is important to recognise that some households impacted by rent increases may not benefit directly from this change.

The data indicates that a single person over 25 working 29 hours per week on the National Minimum Wage (NMW) from April 2025 (£12.21 per hour) would ordinarily not be entitled to Universal Credit (UC) due to their earnings being above the eligibility threshold. However, with a proposed rent increase, their housing costs would rise significantly, reducing their disposable income. As a result, they may newly qualify for some UC entitlement, providing critical financial support that would not have been available otherwise.

This demonstrates how rising rent levels can push individuals who were previously above UC thresholds into eligibility, highlighting the importance of ensuring access to UC for those impacted. While this provides some relief for those now qualifying, it also underscores the broader financial strain rent increases place on working households. In this context, the Rent Assistance Fund (RAF) remains an essential mechanism for supporting those who, despite qualifying for some UC, may still struggle with affordability and rising living costs. Furthermore, the availability of financial inclusion teams (FIT) and targeted debt advice plays a crucial role in helping households navigate these challenges, ensuring they receive holistic support to manage debt and maintain housing stability.

With mitigations in place, what is the new overall rating of the negative impact(s)?

High

Medium

Low

Negative Impact Removed

√

3: Socio-Economic Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to reduce the inequalities of outcome that can arise from socio-economic disadvantage. This section is used to consider what impact the policy may have on people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage – and how any inequalities of outcome arising from the policy can be reduced.

Use this guide to understand more on socio-economic inequalities: [The Fairer Scotland Duty: Guidance for Public Bodies \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/fairer-scotland-duty/guidance-for-public-bodies/)

3.1 What impact could this policy have on people who experience the following aspects of socio-economic disadvantage?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Low income – those who have insufficient earnings to meet basic needs, such as food, clothing, housing, or utilities.	√		
Low/ no wealth – those who have no savings for unexpected spend or provision for the future.	√		
Material deprivation – those who cannot afford or access goods or services that are considered essential or desirable for a decent quality of life, such as food, clothing, heating, transport, internet, cultural, recreational and social activities.	√		
Area deprivation – those who live in an area with poor living conditions, such as higher levels of crime, pollution, noise, congestion, or lack of infrastructure, amenities, or green spaces.	√		
Socio-economic background – social class, parents’ education, employment, income.	√		

3.2 In what way will the policy impact people experiencing socio-economic disadvantage?

The proposed increases will result in higher rent charges which will impact those who are already experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, more specifically those who are not in receipt of financial support for housing costs, however the proposed rate of increases are such to ensure the HRA can be sustainable and continue to provide services and investment in housing.

3.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation looks at the extent to which an area is deprived across seven domains, income, employment, education, health, access to services, crime and housing. As a total stock, Aberdeen City Council has 8,400 households that are within the top 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, representing 35.8% of the stock profile. 1,249 of these are in the top 5% most deprived and 2,192 in the top 10%.

The data gathered through the rent consultation carried out in October/November 2024 has also been considered as part of this assessment, alongside the data gathered by the financial inclusion team which evidences a rise in the number of council tenants seeking support, from 2019 to 2024, the number of Council tenants seeking support from the Financial Inclusion Team rose by 38.6%, from 1,444 to 2,002 cases, with a significant post-2020 increase due to the pandemic's economic impact.

Overall increase in household costs, for those households who are not eligible for financial support with housing costs will be felt more acutely by people who are experiencing existing socio-economic disadvantage.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with officers and partner organisations?

The report was consulted on internally, across the following service areas, financial inclusion team, capital, corporate landlord and housing.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with people who may be impacted by this policy?

A rent consultation was undertaken, with 538 responses received. Of the respondents 365 were not claiming universal credit or housing benefit. One of the questions asked was “Are you finding it difficult to pay your rent due to financial pressures”, 336 respondents answered no, with 188 people responding yes. It is worth highlighted that a fairly mixed picture was provided in terms of response, around financial pressures and potential impacts of a rent increase. Highlighted in particular through some of the free text feedback which evidenced the financial strain for pensioners and those on fixed incomes, who are struggling to make ends meet, highlighting that some were concerned that a rent increase would force a cut back on other essentials such as food and heating.

3.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

It is recognised that tenants who are eligible for housing benefit/universal credit housing costs, would not be adversely impacted by the proposed rents, unless their circumstances change in the future, and they are no longer entitled to housing costs. It is understood that approximately 33% of Aberdeen City Council tenants are not receiving benefits for housing costs, it is this group that would be negatively impacted, and even more so if they are also experiencing socio-economic disadvantage as they will not have a financial buffer to protect them against an increase in household expenditure. By ensuring targeted and timely interventions through the monitoring of rent arrears, proactive offering of support, through our Housing & Support services and Financial Inclusion Team, at the earlier stages of a change in rental payment patterns the negative impact of these proposed changes can be reduced, along with the practical application of the rent assistance fund.

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains	
Yes – negative impact reduced	√
Yes - negative impact removed	

4: Consumer Impacts

The Consumer Scotland Act 2020 places a Consumer Duty on the public sector to put consumer interests at the heart of strategic decision-making, emphasising the need for accessible and affordable public services, especially during times of financial pressure. This person-centred approach is intended to result in better quality services and outcomes for the public as consumers of public services across Scotland.

This section of the IIA is used to consider the impact of the policy on consumers of any services that the policy is intended to change.

Use this guide to understand more on the consumer duty: [How to meet the consumer duty: guidance for public authorities](#)

4.1 What impact could this policy have on any of the below consumer groups?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Individuals	√		
Small businesses		√	

4.2 In what way will the policy impact people in these consumer groups?

Individuals who are tenants will have to pay higher rents, alongside individuals who use other services that are covered by the miscellaneous rent/charges such as renting parking spaces, garages, guest rooms (when visiting families within sheltered housing) require temporary accommodation. Some of these charges are optional as such consumer would have a right to terminate a parking space for example if they felt the cost, was a prohibitive factor. Overall, the increase in rents, for a consumer seeking an affordable housing option is still below the average in the private sector within the city and as such from a financial viewpoint for a consumer

would still provide an attractive option. Small businesses are not impacted by the proposals within the report as they are not eligible for the services covered.

4.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

The Rent Assistance Fund pilot which is being recommended for extension would be aimed at providing support through critical debt relief to our current secure tenants in rent arrears who are experiencing financial hardship.

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

√

5: Human Rights Impacts

The Human Rights Act 1998 sets out the fundamental rights and freedoms that everyone in the UK is entitled to. It incorporates the rights set out in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into domestic British law. The Human Rights Act came into force in the UK in October 2000

The Act sets out our human rights in a series of 'Articles'. Each Article deals with a different right.

Use this guide to understand more about [Human Rights](#).

5.1 What impact could this policy have on Human Rights?

Human Rights Article	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Article 2: Right to life		√	
Article 4: Prohibition of slavery and forced labour		√	
Article 5: Right to liberty and security		√	
Article 6: Right to a fair trial		√	
Article 7: No punishment without law		√	
Article 8: Right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence		√	
Article 9: Freedom of thought, belief and religion		√	
Article 10: Freedom of expression		√	
Article 11: Freedom of assembly and association		√	
Article 12: Right to marry and start a family		√	
Article 14: Protection from discrimination in respect of these rights and freedoms		√	
Article 1 of Protocol 1: Right to peaceful enjoyment of your property		√	
Article 2 of Protocol 1: Right to education		√	
Article 3 of Protocol 1: Right to participate in free elections		√	

5.2 In what way will the policy impact Human Rights?

No impact on Human Rights has currently been identified. We do however acknowledge that any potential impact may vary depending on an individual's physical or mental health condition, sex, age and other vulnerabilities.

5.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

The provision of benefits and support is aimed at mitigating any such negative impacts that might arise.

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

6: Children and Young People’s Rights Impacts

The United Nations Convention has 54 articles that cover all aspects of a child’s life and set out the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all children everywhere are entitled to. It also explains how adults and governments must work together to make sure all children can enjoy all their rights.

Children’s rights apply to every child/young person under the age of 18 and to adults still eligible to receive a “children’s service” (e.g. care leavers aged 18 – 26 years old).

There are 4 articles known as the “General Principles”. They help to interpret the other articles. They are:

1. Non-discrimination (Article 2)
2. Best interest of the child (Article 3)
3. Right to life survival and development (Article 6)
4. Right to be heard (Article 12)

For ease, the articles have been grouped in three categories to support assessments against the Convention, those most directly related to the **PROVISION** of services, those most directly related to the **PROTECTION** of children and young people, and those to encourage their active **PARTICIPATION in decision making**. You can [read the full UN Convention \(pdf\)](#), or [just a summary \(pdf\)](#), to find out more about the rights that are included.

6.1 What impact could this policy have on the rights of Children and Young People?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
PROVISION			
Article 2: non-discrimination	√		
Article 3: best interests of the child provision and protection	√		
Article 5: parental guidance and a child's evolving capacities		√	
Article 16: right to privacy		√	
Article 17: access to information from the media		√	
Article 18: parental responsibilities and state assistance		√	
Article 22: refugee children		√	
Article 23: children with a disability		√	
Article 24: health and health services		√	
Article 26: social security		√	
Article 27: adequate standard of living	√		
Article 28: right to education		√	
Article 29: goals of education		√	
Article 30: children from minority or indigenous groups		√	
Article 31: leisure, play and culture		√	
Article 39: recovery from trauma and reintegration		√	
Article 40: juvenile justice		√	
PROTECTION			
Article 6: life, survival and development	√		
Article 7: birth registration, name, nationality, care		√	
Article 8: protection and preservation of identity		√	
Article 9: Separation from parents		√	
Article 10: family reunification protection		√	
Article 11: abduction and non-return of children		√	
Article 15: freedom of association		√	

Article 19: protection from violence, abuse and neglect		√	
Article 20: children unable to live with their family		√	
Article 21: adoption		√	
Article 25: review of treatment in care		√	
Article 33: drug abuse		√	
Article 34: sexual exploitation		√	
Article 35: abduction, sale and trafficking		√	
Article 36: other forms of exploitation		√	
Article 37: inhumane treatment and detention		√	
Article 38: war and armed conflicts		√	
Article 32: child labour		√	
PARTICIPATION			
Article 12: respect for the views of the child		√	
Article 13: freedom of expression		√	
Article 14: freedom of thought, belief and religion		√	
Article 42: knowledge of rights		√	

6.2 In what way will the policy impact the rights of Children and Young People?

There will be some degree of potential impact on children and young people most likely on Articles, 2, 3, 6 and 27 as a direct or indirect result of the impact on their parent or carer who look after and provide for them.

6.3 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?

The council's strategic Children's Plan embeds support in the following areas which will remove or reduce negative impact.

- Whole Family Support: supporting families (of all shapes and sizes) with a focus on what support works to keep families together and support wider families to care, ensuring that support feels coherent, holistic and relational
- Trauma: delivery of early and preventative trauma informed support across all services
- Children's Rights: embedding a rights-respecting approach into all services and ensuring that rights of the child, their own needs and their voice is at the centre of decisions about what is best for them
- Poverty: ensuring that our local services know and understand the impact of poverty and work to reduce the number of children growing up in poverty and the negative outcomes associated with that
- Participation: involve the care community and lived experience in our plans to #KeepthePromise by working with families to redesign the services available to them to make them work better for those that use them

If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?

No – negative impact remains

Yes – negative impact reduced

Yes - negative impact removed

√

7: Environmental Impacts

Aberdeen City Council has a duty to meet its legal environmental responsibilities by working towards Net Zero emissions, adapting to climate change, and acting in a way it considers most sustainable. We must also fulfil the [biodiversity duty](#) and [sustainable procurement duty](#).

This section in the Integrated Impact Assessment demonstrates that these considerations that have been made in the policy, that the impact of proposals made is understood and accepted, and what mitigating steps can be taken to reduce any negative impact of the policy.

Use this guide to understand more on the legal climate change duty: [Climate change - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#) and find out more about how Aberdeen is adapting to Climate Change: [Aberdeen Adapts | Aberdeen City Council](#)

7.1 What is the impact of this policy on any of the below climate, environmental and waste considerations?

	Negative	Neutral	Positive
Council or City-wide carbon emissions			√
Active and sustainable travel		√	
Facilities for local living		√	
Resilience and adaptability to flooding and weather events		√	
Biodiversity improvement and wildlife/habitat connectivity		√	
Water consumption and drainage		√	
Pollution (air, water, noise, light and land contamination)		√	
Impact on resource use and waste		√	
Sustainable procurement of goods and services		√	

7.2 In what way will the policy impact the environment?

No negative impact on Environmental Impacts has currently been identified. We do however acknowledge that any potential impact may vary depending on an individual's physical or mental health condition, sex, age, income and other vulnerabilities.

There may be a positive impact which may offer future investment in energy efficiency solutions as a result of this policy.

7.3 What considerations have been made in reaching the above assessment?

What internal or external data has been considered? What does this data tell us?

The capital plan included in the report identifies various measures that will improve the energy efficiency of homes including window replacements, district heating works, external wall insulation etc. New homes are built to 'gold standard' with improved energy efficiency.

What consultation and engagement has been undertaken with local groups, partner organisations, experts etc? Where required, identify any other environmental assessments that have been completed.

No consultation undertaken.

7.4 What mitigations can be put in place?

What can be done to remove or reduce any negative impacts of this policy (if applicable)?	
Investment in energy efficiency solutions and develop our data sources and understanding around environmental impacts.	
If mitigations are in place, does this remove or reduce the negative impact?	No – negative impact remains
	Yes – negative impact reduced
	Yes - negative impact removed

8: Sign Off

Any further positive or negative impacts on individuals or groups that have been considered?

There are no anticipated impacts on staff as a result of this policy. Any changes in increased charges will be implemented digitally.

There are no further positive or negative impacts to highlight.

Does the policy relate to the Council's [Equality Outcomes](#)? If yes, how:

No

Overall summary of changes made to the policy as a result of impact assessment.

Continuation of the Rent Assistance Fund and by setting the rent in December will allow those tenants who claim benefits time to update their claims.

Outline how the impact of policy will be monitored.

The impacts of approved increases will continue to be monitored through our existing processes on an ongoing basis.

If there are any remaining negative impacts after mitigation, what is the justification for why this policy should proceed.

The rental increase is required to ensure the Housing Revenue Account is sustained financially and services to our tenants can continue to be maintained.

Assessment Author	Helen Sherrit
Date	21/11/24
Chief Officer	Jonathan Belford & Jacqui McKenzie
Date	4/12/24